US move to establish weapon and ammunition stores in Pakistan

*51. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India has expressed its concern over a move by the US to establish arms production units and weapon and ammunition stores in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this US move is aimed at augmenting the supplies of its forces in Pakistan engaged in the war against terrorism;

(c) whether India has raised it's concerns time and again as it enhances Pakistan's offensive strike capability; and

(d) if so, what is the assurance India has got from US for using stores in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has not seen any confirmed reports or official U.S. statement that the United States is planning to establish weapons production units in Pakistan in support of its war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Government is, however, aware that the United States has stationed military forces and placed equipment and stores in Pakistan for its own use in the ongoing war against terrorism.

(c) and (d) The United States has resumed military relations, including supply of defence equipment, to Pakistan in the context of Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism. Government has conveyed to the United States that it must remain conscious of the impact of U.S.-Pakistan military relations on India's security interests. The United States has expressed understanding for our concerns and has also conveyed that it is not considering sales of defence equipment such F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan.